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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7101
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 1499
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0655
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0575
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 000173

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [AM](#)
SUBJECT: EMBASSY OFFERS TO ACT AS GO-BETWEEN

REF: A. A) YEREVAN 164

[1](#)B. B) YEREVAN 163

Classified By: CDA Joseph Pennington, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

[1](#)1. (C) Implementing a strategy informally agreed with the Department (EUR), post has floated an offer to the Prime Minister to serve as go-between to the opposition movement led by former President Levon Ter-Petrossian (LTP). Polchief sought a brief meeting with PM adviser Levon Martirosian, during which he conveyed the following message.

-- The USG is concerned about the seeming political stalemate.

-- Though the opposition protest rallies seem likely to be on a downward trend, their continued existence represents a risk of possible clash, and indicates a significant public constituency that remains unhappy and unreconciled to the PM's victory.

-- While the LTP camp's public statements have been unrealistic and maximalist, we have had one ambiguous overture from an LTP lieutenant suggesting that the USG involve itself in mediation.

-- Polchief emphasized that we are neither seeking to encourage protesters, nor pushing to intrude ourselves into the political situation. If the PM's answer is "no, thank you," we are perfectly prepared to accept that demurral. We offer ourselves only in an attempt to be helpful at reconciliation between the two opposing sides, in the spirit of the PM's February 26 address (ref A) calling for inclusiveness and compromise, if the PM feels that would be useful in bridging the divide.

[1](#)2. (C) Martirosian thanked us for the offer, and promised to convey it promptly to the prime minister. His reaction seemed skeptical overall, though he did mention that there are doubtless some influential players in the LTP camp who might be willing to accept some kind of reasonable alternative to the current confrontation. (NOTE: During our Febuary 26 meeting with Martirosian and Mikhail Minasyan (ref B), Minasyan had ruminated about the need to offer LTP some kind of face-saving way out, since LTP seemed to have painted himself into a corner that he did not know how to escape.
END NOTE)

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